

R E M A R K S

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing proposed amendments as well as the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the present application, claims 1, 6-8, 13 and 18-19 have been amended, with claims 3, 4, 5, 11-12, 15-17 and 21-22 being canceled hereby without prejudice. No new subject matter has been introduced via the proposed changes.

In the Office Action dated December 5, 2006, the Examiner (1) objected to the drawing (particularly Fig. 7); (2) provisionally rejected claims 1-22 on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 12, 14, and 18 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/547,586 to Sun et al., (the “‘586 reference”); (3) provisionally rejected claims 1-22 on the grounds of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1, 9 and 16 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/557,967 to Zhang et al., (the “‘967 reference”); (4) rejected claims 1-4, 11-12, 13-16 and 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,079,509 (the “‘709 reference”); and (5) found allowable subject matter relative to claims 5-10 and 17-20.

Concerning item (1) above, Applicants respectfully submit that the Replacement Drawings provided herewith effectively traverse the indicated objection to the drawings.

Concerning items (2) and (3) above, Applicants respectfully submit that the terminal disclaimer provided herewith effectively traverses the respective non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejections. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of such rejections are respectfully requested.

Concerning items (4) and (5), Applicants respectfully express appreciation for the finding of allowable subject matter with respect to claims 5-10 and 17-20, and further respectfully submits that each of the present pending claims are likewise directed toward allowable subject matter. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all rejections of such claims are respectfully requested.

In sum, it is respectfully submitted that the present claims are patentable, and moreover that the pending application is accordingly in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicant respectfully and earnestly solicits a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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